

Appl. No. 09/936,918

KAS-157

Amendment filed December 10, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated September 10, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 6-12 remain pending in this application.
Claims 4-5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Priority

Applicants request acknowledgment of the claim for priority in this case. The priority document was filed at the International Phase of this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

On September 2, 2001 Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement. On the initialed PTO-1449 Form returned with the Office Action, the Examiner crossed off reference AL and wrote "No Characterization". Applicants request clarification of the phrase "No Characterization".

35 U.S.C. §112

The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection under this section. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone with any questions.

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35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP 5-288756 or EP 0510686. These rejections are traversed as follows.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 4 and 5. It is submitted that neither JP 5-288756 nor EP 0510686 disclose the claimed features of the present invention. In particular, the references do not disclose analysis information management method having a service center that, responsive to a request from an automatic analyzing apparatus, creates a list of reagents available in this apparatus from information regarding reagents stored in a database. In addition, these references do not disclose the supplying of this list through a communication line to the automatic analyzing apparatus. Furthermore, it is submitted that these references do not disclose that, in response to a selection of an associated reagent from the list made by a user of the automatic analyzing apparatus, the service center transfers analysis parameters for a testing item to be analyzed using the selected reagent to the automatic analyzing apparatus through the communication line.

The Examiner comments that the claims are best understood as teaching an automated analyzer that has a bar code reader

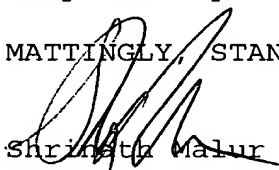
for tracking reagents, samples and other pertinent data, on page 2 of the Office Action. However, as stated above, the present invention is characterized by other features than that mentioned by the Examiner. It is therefore requested that the Examiner conduct an interview with the undersigned in order to clarify any of the Examiner's questions regarding the inventive features of the present invention. As such, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to arrange a date and time for such interview, unless the Examiner concludes that the claims are patentable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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